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R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 23-25 have been amended. New claims 26 through 31 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the originally filed specification, claims and drawings. Nine claims remain pending in the application: Claims 23 through 31. Reconsideration of claims 23 through 25 in view of the amendments above and remarks below and consideration of new claims 26 through 31 is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

1. Claims 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 23-25 have been amended to more clearly describe the structural cooperative relationships between "peer coupling," "control and status register," "sequencer," "register interface," and "arbiter".

For example, claim 23 now recites wherein the peer coupling is "configured to communicate state information of the RBC...," the control and status register is "configured to retain the state information of the RBC," and wherein the sequencer is "configured to transition the state of the RBC according to the

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state information retained in the control and status register." Moreover, claim 25 now recites wherein the "arbiter is configured to define the state of the RBC."

Therefore, the claims as amended satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and Applicant requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

2. Claims 23-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,282,583 (*Pincus et al.*).

As set forth at M.P.E.P. § 2131, a claim is anticipated only if every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Pincus et al. fails to describe, either expressly or inherently, a redundant bus controller (RBC) including: 1) a peer coupling configured to communicate state information of the RBC to another bus controller for coordinating control of a bus between a plurality of system hosts;" 2) a control and status register configured to retain the state information of the RBC;" and 3) a sequencer configured to transition the state of the RBC according to the state information retained in the control and status register" as recited, for example, in claim 23.


In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that *Pincus et al.* does not describe, either expressly or inherently, each and every element as presently recited in claim 23. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the present rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

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C O N C L U S I O N

Applicant submits that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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